



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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AM: 0790423-0306

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ADS-00 SY-05 GYE-00 MCT-02
USSS-00 A-02 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DDOE-00
PH-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 OCS-06 CA-01
EB-08 FAA-00 DOTE-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 FBO-05 OMB-01
SR-04 ACDA-12 SMS-01 FRB-03 SSC-01 IO-14 SES-01
ANAE-00 /156 W

-----008680 161749Z /44

Z O 160502Z SEP 79 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 5629

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY Dacca IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR IMMEDIATE

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[Signature]

8/1/84

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6914

DEPT ALSO FOR A/SY/CC: KARACHI FOR RSS: CINCPAC AND CINCEUR
ALSO FOR POLAD: USUN:PFENDER FOR TAYLOR

E.O. 12065: GDS 9/16/85 (FLATIN, BRUCE A.) OR-M

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CASC, MOPS, AF PINR

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SUBJECT: HAFIZULLAH AMIN TAKES OVER RULE IN AFGHANISTAN

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REF: KABUL 6913

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. AT 2000 HOURS, KABUL TIME, ON SEPTEMBER 16, KABUL TELEVISION ANNOUNCED THAT NOOR MOHAMMED TARAKI HAD INFORMED THE POLITBURO OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN (POPA) AND THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL THAT HE WAS "SICK" AND COULD NO LONGER UNDERTAKE THE DUTIES OF OFFICE. AT POLITBURO AND REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL SESSIONS CHAIRED ON SEPTEMBER 16 BY FOREIGN MINISTER SHAH WALI, WHO HAD BEEN THE THIRD-RANKING OFFICIAL OF THE KHALOI HIERARCHY, THOSE BODIES DECIDED TO NAME HAFIZULLAH AMIN AS PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE POPA. AMIN WOULD ALSO RETAIN HIS TITLE AS PRIME MINISTER.

3. THE TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO REVEALED THAT FOUR PERSONS HAD BEEN KILLED AT THE ARG PALACE ("HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE") ON SEPTEMBER 14TH. AMONG THE DEAD WAS SAYED DAQUD TAROON, CHEF DU CABINET OF PRESIDENT TARAKI--AND FORMER POLICE COMMANDANT OF AFGHANISTAN. THERE ARE RUMORS AT KABUL, NOT TOUCHED UPON BY THIS TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENT, THAT TARAKI WAS WOUNDED IN THAT SAME ENCOUNTER. FLAGS WILL FLY AT HALF-MAST ON SEPTEMBER 17 FOR "MARTYR" TAROON.

4. AS OF 2100 HOURS KABUL IS QUIET, BUT SEVERAL TANKS AND NERVOUS TROOPS STILL GUARD THE STREETS NEAR THE EMBASSY. THE CUSTOMARY 2300 HOUR CURFEW HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR TONIGHT. WE HAVE A STAFF AT THE EMBASSY WHO WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR EVENTS THROUGH OUT THE EVENING.

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5. COMMENT: AMIN NOW TAKES OVER UNDISPUTED CONTROL OF THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT, HAVING ALREADY EXERCISED UNDISPUTED OPERATIONAL CONTROL SINCE THE REVOLUTION. MANY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS (THROUGH DEATH AND THROUGH PURGES), SUCH AS FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER MOHAMMED ASLAM WATANJAR AND TAROON, WERE PERSONS WHO WERE CONSIDERED SUPPORTERS OF TARAKI, RATHER THAN AMIN. THE EMBASSY WILL BE ANALYZING THESE DEVELOPMENTS FURTHER IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGES.

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6. TARGON'S PASSING WILL GO LARGELY UNMOURNED. THIS
BRUTAL, PSYCHOPATHIC KILLER WAS SECOND ONLY TO AMIN
IN THE AMOUNT OF BLOOD ON HIS HANDS.
AMSTUTZ

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